



GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY PROBATE COURT

March-April 2013
Volume 41, Issue 2

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Welcome Judge Melanie D. Stanton

We would like to welcome the Honorable Melanie D. Stanton to the Probate and Family Court. Judge Stanton has been a long time supporter of Volunteer Services and continues to be as she takes on the role of Judge.

When asked to write a piece for our handbook, Judge Stanton had this to say about volunteers and the role they play for the Court: "By your willingness to participate in Volunteer Services, you are making a significant contribution to improving the lives of individuals in our community. Your contribution is greatly appreciated!"

Volunteers are integral to the functioning of the Court and assist the Court in meeting the needs of those individuals appearing before it. Without your service, the needs of individuals that come before the Court could not be met.

As Volunteers, you will have the opportunity to work closely with individuals to assess needs and strengths; to provide instruction, mentoring or guidance; or to simply provide companionship and friendship. Whether you volunteer in abuse and neglect cases, citizen panels for first-time juvenile offenders, truancy intervention, Learning Partners, guardianship or conservatorships, you are making a difference. The Court has confidence in your efforts individually and as a group to make the "Volunteer Services Division" a strong, successful and viable program within the Court and our community."

2013 Annual Volunteer Recognition

Save the Date ➡ Tuesday April 16, 2013

6:00-9:00 p.m.

Gilbert Lodge~ Twin Lakes Park

Join us for dinner and entertainment!

You will receive your invitation by mail.



Happy Birthday

March

Harold Adler
Carol Valko
Wanda Anstine
Jim Warner
Judith Clark
Ellen Briggs
Christina Riddle
Beverly Saur
Pamela Petajan
Christy Beaudrie
Geoffrey Reddy
Karianne Merritt

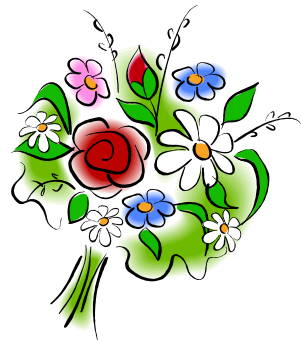
April

Arla Woodcock
Vernon Kinner
Parker Field
Maxine Rideout
Wilma Birdsall
Victor Rioux
Bonnie Lahde
Mary Spears
Barbara Wilkins
Dustin Tortorici
Reva Reed
Susan Kraus
Cheryl Bzdok
Sharon Herron
Kathy Blunck
Jacquie Thomas
Robert Raetz
Duane Straubel
Marco Pazienza
Rand Leach
Mary Jo Zazueta
Lisa Niergarth
Ronda Franklin
Lisa Woodcox
Jessi McGraw
Renee Heinz

Thoughts and Prayers Remembering Judine Leavitt

Judine passed away on January 16, 2013. She has been a friend to Volunteer Services, our court, kids and families as a Learning Partner and tutor/mentor to youth on probation for 23 years. She has been a friend in every sense of the word; trustworthy, honest, helpful, all personally and in her work with kids and families. She was one that we could count on when we needed an extra hand, or a child needed a little extra heart.

She was a friend; we will miss her.

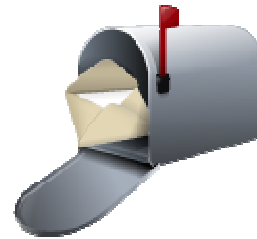


Welcome Diane Conklin– New Family Court Administrator

Diane recently joined the Grand Traverse Family Court staff as family Court Administrator. She has previously been employed as a paralegal in several law firms over the past 35 years. In addition, she and her husband, Bill Conklin, have been involved in ministry and have traveled across the United States and remote regions in northern Canada, Guatemala and Jamaica.

Diane and Bill have been married for 28 years and have a blended family of five adult children and one granddaughter (Ryan, Caleb, Casey, Briana, Will and Alexis). Diane loves working with youth of all ages and helping them overcome difficult situations to reach their highest potential.

In her “spare” time, Diane and her family are actively involved in hiking, biking, skiing and spending quiet days on the beach together.



Postal Service Announces

New Delivery Schedule

Six days of package delivery and five days of mail delivery begins August 2013. The United States Postal Service announced plans to transition to a new delivery schedule during the week of August 5, 2013. Once implemented in August, mail delivery to street address will occur Monday through Friday. Packages will continue to be delivered six days per week. Please keep this in mind as you plan time sensitive mail for August and beyond.



Judine Leavitt

We lost a dear friend and Learning Partner, Judine Leavitt, on January 16, 2013. Judine volunteered for our court for 23 years. Thank you Judine for all of your service to the court, kids, and families in our community. She was a friend to all and she will be greatly missed.

Ice Skating Activity “on ice”

Due to school and ice availability schedule conflicts, Learning Partners will not be ice skating as a group this year.

Swimming Ahead

Plans for our annual Swim and Water Safety Sessions are in the works! We are planning on 6 sessions beginning in mid-April. Each student will be evaluated and will work with a Water Safety Instructor to acquire more skills and progress in swimming ability. We are working to build life skills, so each student will learn the proper fitting of a life-jacket, how to get in and out of a boat, what to do if your boat capsizes, and how best to help a swimming friend in need. Information and permission slips will be sent to both Learning Partner Volunteers and Students.

Students still need Help!

We have a few students waiting, and anticipate more referrals in the coming months. If you are interested in becoming a Learning Partner, or in taking on an additional student, please let Laura know. If you can be flexible about location in Grand Traverse County, we can get you started tutor/mentoring at an elementary school right away.

March Meeting-

Many of the families we work with deal with various substance abuse issues. We have invited a representative from Addiction Treatment Services to discuss how drug testing is administered.

Also, Shelly Burnes with ATS/DHS will be present to discuss the affects of fetal alcohol as well as, effects of substance abuse on families.

April Meeting-

Please join us Gilbert Lodge. See pg. 1– Save the Date!

What a great time to reconnect socially, at a fun event. We would love to see a table full of CASA's.



“WE ARE FOR THE CHILD”

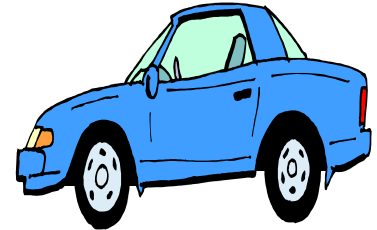
Jill Kimball, Amanda Steele, Judge Melanie D. Stanton, and Jo Bullis

CASA Training starts Thursday, February 28th for new volunteers.

Transporter's Needed

We would like to thank all of our transporters for all the work they do for Volunteer Services. For the last minute calls, trips in the middle of the night and the wee hours of the morning. You have all given such a wonderful contribution and we would like to thank each one of you.

Jim & Val Doman
Helen Knapp
Alex Moore
Thad Saur
Elaine Spears
Dave Speirs
Henry Tenbrink
Ed & Donna Thoma
Jim Valko
Pat Wazny
Al & Barb Wilkins
John & Bettie Wilkins



We are in need of more transporters. These volunteers transport youth in county vehicles to and from detention facilities and recovery centers. Transporter's often times will transport kids to and from court hearings and doctors appointments as well. If this is something you or anyone you know is interested in or would like more information on, please contact the Volunteer Services office at 922-4827.

April is National Volunteer Week, Child Abuse/Neglect Prevention Month, and Month of the Young Child

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month, a time to recognize that we can each play a part in promoting the social and emotional well-being of children and families in our community. Prevention is the best hope for reducing child abuse and neglect and improving the lives of children and families. Please visit <https://www.childwelfare.gov/preventing/preventionmonth> for additional information regarding this very important subject.

April is also the Month of the Young Child. Downtown Traverse City for many years now has celebrated the Month of the Young Child by holding fun, educational events downtown on the last Saturday in April. This year, April 27, 2013, Traverse City will celebrate the education for young children with events at the City Opera House, Horizon Books, and various locations throughout downtown from 11 am to 2 pm.

Finally, National Volunteer Week is celebrated the fourth week in April. We salute and give thanks to all our volunteers in our court programs and also our community who have given their time, talents, and expertise to help others in so many ways.





GRAND TRAVERSE AREA LITERACY COUNCIL



Grand Traverse Area Literacy Council

Well as I write this there is lots of snow on the ground and I have just finished blowing same. When you read this, there may or may not be snow on the ground, and I may or may not be blowing same.

As soon as the tax season ends, our friends at Plante Moran will be able to return to a sane life and pick up on our mutual planning for a special outreach project for late spring or early summer.

While on the topic of calendar related topics, GTALC will postpone its April Tutor Training session. Please call/email (231) 922 4574 – gtalc22@gmail.com) our office to find out further details.

Regarding something which will happen this spring, I remind you of our annual book sale. So start packing up all those books you have acquired over last fall and winter. Call our office for details of delivery.

Representatives of GTALC recently had two meetings with Judge Melanie D. Stanton regarding a collaborative effort between the Court and our organization. This is an opportunity for GTALC to join Judge Stanton in support of families and literacy.

On another front, GTALC is working with colleague adult literacy agencies and NWMCOG to run a pilot program in distance learning.

Think spring!

Respectfully submitted,

Dick Thompson

President Grand Traverse Area Literacy Council





**VOLUNTEERS IN
PREVENTION/PROBATION**

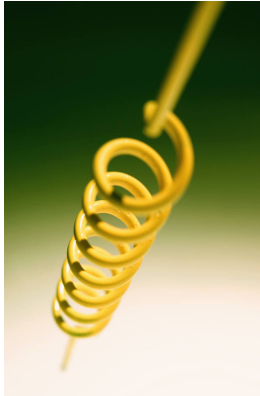
GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY PROBATE COURT

GRAND TRANVERSE COUNTY PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT

MELANIE D. STANTON, PROBATE & FAMILY COURT JUDGE

280 Washington St., Suite B 150, Traverse City, MI 49684

231-922-4827



March 10th

**Daylight Savings
Time**

SPRING AHEAD!

***All meeting are held at the Volunteer Services
office unless otherwise mentioned.**

Learning Partners

1st Tuesday-4:00-5:00 pm

Tuesday, March 5th

Tuesday, April 2nd



CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate)

3rd Tuesday- 4:00-6:00 pm

Tuesday, March 19th

**Tuesday, April 16th - NO mtg.,
see pg 1**



Literacy Council

3rd Wednesday-6:00 pm
Traverse Area District Library

Wednesday, March 20th

Wednesday, April 17th



Our office will be closed on:

Friday, March 29th (Good Friday)

Thank you IT Department!

Our Volunteer Services Division just received a Microsoft Office upgrade. Thank you IT Department and County for this much needed upgrade!

Find us Fast on the County Website!

"Volunteer Services" is now listed on the Homepage of Grand Traverse County under "County Services". Clicking on the Volunteer Service link will take you directly to the Volunteer Services page. Thank you IT Department for your help with getting this done for us!